



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

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May 1, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jeffrey m*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services (now the Director of Public Health) to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer (now the Chief Executive Officer) and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services (now the State Department of Public Health) on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20, August 3, September 8, October 3, November 9, 2006, January 18, and April 19, 2007, and January 23, 2008 I provided you with status reports.

State Department of Public Health (CDPH) staff requested and received preliminary information upon which the contract budget and workload for FY 2007-08 would be negotiated. Although a specific workload for FY 2006-07 was never negotiated, CDPH staff instructed County Department of Public Health (DPH) staff to begin processing applications for initial licensure and certification, such as for home health agencies, which had been the lowest priority for many years. In addition, DPH staff had been instructed to devote more resources to complaint investigations to be in compliance with a court order directing the State to diminish the backlog of complaints and initiate all new complaint investigations in a timely manner.

CDPH approved a budget adjustment for FY 2006-07 to move salary savings into training, in order to train and certify new staff and anticipated new staff. HFID was able to fill 4 Health Evaluator positions to offset previous staff losses, but further recruitment efforts were not successful.

## **PRESENT STATUS**

In December 2007, nurses in the Health Facility Evaluator class were reclassified into the new Health Facility Evaluator Nursing class after union negotiations and Board approval. As a result of this reclassification, the nurse evaluators received a substantial increase in compensation that was instituted in February of 2008. On April 23, 2008, CDPH agreed to amend the FY 2007-08 contract to cover an increase of \$1,411,162 in DPH costs as the result of the reclassification.

Since our last report, HFID has not been able to fill any additional Health Evaluator positions due to budget limitations in the contract with CDPH. HFID continues to have a significant staff shortage.

Negotiations are currently underway with CDPH to configure a new three-year agreement starting in FY 2008-09. DPH staff is working to ensure that the new agreement contains support for adequate staffing to meet the needs for HFID services.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:eap  
PH:604:016(9)

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors